

REMARKS

Claims 1-39 were originally pending. Claims 10-39 were withdrawn from consideration in response to a Restriction Requirement. Claims 40-47 were added by way of a Preliminary Amendment. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 40 and 41 have been cancelled. Claims 48-81 have been added. Claims 1-9, and 42-81 are now pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-9 and 40 are rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being unpatentable over Albrecht. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of original dependent claims 40 and 41 (now cancelled). Claim 41 was deemed in the Office Action to contain allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and corresponding dependent claims 2-9 and 40 is respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 42-47 have been deemed to contain allowable subject matter. Applicant asserts the allowability of independent claim 1 as sufficient basis for the allowance of claims 42-47. Formal allowance of claims 42-47 is respectfully requested.

III. New Claims

Applicant has added new claim 48 that depends indirectly from claims 43 and 1, and recites that the base layer is insulating. Applicant asserts the allowability of independent claim 1 as sufficient basis for the allowance of claim 48. Formal allowance of claim 48 is respectfully requested.

Applicant has also added new independent claim 49 and corresponding dependent claims 50-65. Independent claim 49 includes the subject matter of original claims 1 and 43. Dependent claims 50-64 are intended to generally correspond to original dependent claims 2-9, 40-42, and 44-47. Claim 65 generally corresponds to new claim 48. Formal allowance of claims 49-65 is respectfully requested.

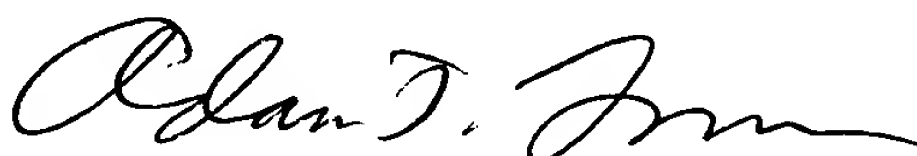
Applicant has also added new independent claim 66 and corresponding dependent claims 67-81. Independent claim 66 incorporates the subject matter of original claims 1, 40, and 46. Claim 46 was deemed to contain allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Dependent claims 67-80 are intended to generally correspond to original claims 2-9, 41-45, and 47. Claim 81 generally corresponds to new claim 46. Formal allowance of claims 66-81 is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

Applicant therefore respectfully asserts that all rejections and objections cited by the Examiner have been overcome. Accordingly, the application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to deduct the \$522 fee for the addition of twenty-nine (29) dependent claims in excess of 20, along with any other fees arising from this or any other communication, from deposit account No. 17-0055. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below if such would advance the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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